

Message Text

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17

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MCT-01 /013 W
----- 105377

R 201939Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7423
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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STATE FOR ARA/EX & A/SY/FO

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTRACT
SECURITY COORDINATOR AT CONSULATE MEDELLIN

1. UNDER THE ANTI-TERRORISM PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS INVESTED CONSIDERABLE FUNDS IN UPGRADING THE SECURITY POSTURE OF THE CONSULATE IN MEDELLIN. THE SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN IN MEDELLIN HAVE INCLUDED THE INSTALLATION OF A RADIO NET, INCREASED LOCAL GUARD POSITIONS, PROVIDING PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR CONSULATE AMERICANS, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE SECURITY EQUIPMENT TO THE CONSULATE AND SECURITY CONSTRUCTION FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AND THE RESIDENCES OF THE TWO AMERICANS.

2. HOWEVER, GIVEN ALL THE SECURITY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO DATE, THE THREAT LEVEL CONTINUES TO RISE. DURING RECENT MONTHS, MOLOTOV COCKTAILS WERE THROWN INTO BRITISH CONSULATE AND ARGENTINE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE, SALVADORAN CONSULATE WAS DAMAGED BY EXPLOSIVES, SPANISH CONSULATE WAS FIRED UPON WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ANF AMERICAN
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CONSULATE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE THREATENING CALLS,

BOMB THREATS AND INTELLIGENCE FROM LOCAL
AUTHORITIES REGARDING THREATS AGAINST THE CONSULATE
ANF EMPLOYEES.

3. IN SHORT, SECURITY IS BECOMING TIME-CONSUMING FOR
AMERICANS AND LOCAL STAFF WHO HAVE SPLIT UP THE
VARIOUS INTERLOCKING SECURITY TASKS AND HAVING
DIFFICULTIES CONDUCTING THE NORMAL DAY TO DAY
BUSINESS ALONG WITH THEIR SECURITY DUTIES.

4. MEDELLIN HAS PROPOSED AND EMBASSY INCLUDING
RSO CONCURS THAT THE HIRING OF LOCAL CONTRACT
SECURITY COORDINATOR WOULD ALLEVIATE THE
DISPARATE DUTIES NOW IMPOSED UPON A HEAVILY
BURDENED AMERICAN AND LOCAL STAFF. MEDELLIN
HAS A WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATE IN MIND, WHO HAS
BEEN WORKING AS A VISA INVESTIGATOR FOR THE
CONSULATE, IS EXPERIENCED AND HAS EXCELLENT
POLICE CONTACTS. THE SECURITY COORDINATOR WOULD
STILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE POST SECURITY OFFICER
AND RECEIVE GUIDANCE AND IF NECESSARY, TRAINING
FROM RSO.

5. WE PROPOSE PAYING THE SECURITY COORDINATOR A
STARTING SALARY OF 6,000 PESOS PER MONTH (\$170.36),
COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 1976. REQUEST DOLLARS 2,040 IN ANTI-TERRORISM
FUNDS DURING FY1977 TO COVER. IF APPROVED, FUNDING REQUEST WILL BE
INCLUDED IN INCREASE/DECREASE STATEMENT DUE IN DECEMBER 1976.
SANCHEZ

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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